



MEDIA RELEASE

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Screening & Panel Discussion of Award Winning Documentary, *THE GREATEST SILENCE: Rape in the Congo*

(Seattle, WA) – In honor of Congo Week (October 17-23), on Friday, October 22, 7:00-9:30 pm, Exiled Voices for Justice will screen and discuss *THE GREATEST SILENCE: Rape in the Congo* at the Meaningful Movies at Keystone Church, 5019 Keystone Place N., Seattle.

Winner of the Sundance Special Jury Prize in Documentary and inspiration for a U.N. Resolution classifying rape as a weapon of war, "The Greatest Silence" opened the world's eyes to the epidemic of rape in eastern Congo. Featuring interviews with survivors, activists, peacekeepers, physicians, and – chillingly – soldiers who unabashedly admit to torturing women, this powerful film shattered the silence surrounding the use of rape as a weapon of war while inspiring viewers with examples of resistance, courage, and resilience.

Mineral-rich eastern Congo is considered the most dangerous place in the world to be a woman or a girl. Competition for control over mineral resources – including coltan, which is used to manufacture electronics – has attracted foreign militias and soldiers from the Congolese Army who use sexual violence to control villagers in mining areas.

After the screening, three panelists will discuss issues raised by the film and ways in which those issues are being addressed today: Dick Anderson, Executive Director, HEAL Africa (www.healafrika.org); Wemba-koy Okonda, President, OKONGO (www.okongo.org); and Erika Berg, Refugee and Immigrant Children's Program (www.refugeechildren.net).

Attendees are encouraged to arrive early. Starting at 6:45, images from the internationally touring photo exhibit, "Congo/Women" (www.congowomen.org), will be previewed. After the screening/panel, nonprofits working in the Congo and on behalf of Congolese refugees will display literature about their programs and opportunities for attendees to get involved.

This free event is co-hosted by Lutheran Community Services NW's Refugee and Immigrant Children's Program and Friday Night at the Meaningful Movies. Admittance is free; first come, first served. For details: www.exiledvoicesforjustice.org and www.meaningfulmovies.org To learn more about Congo Week: www.congoweek.org

Lutheran Community Services Northwest is a non-profit human services agency. Our mission is to partner with individuals, families, and communities for health, justice, and hope. For more information: www.lcsnw.org

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